



Junior Ranger Activity Booklet



**FLATHEAD
LAND TRUST**
Conserving Our Legacy of Land and Water



Welcome to the Harrell Forest Junior Ranger Program

It's easy to become a Junior Ranger of Harrell Forest. How old are you?

I am age _____. That is the number of activities in this booklet you must complete to become a Junior Ranger, but feel free to do more.

Once you have completed your activities, take your booklet to Flathead Land Trust in Kalispell and we will review your work and sign your certificate. You will then be sworn in and receive your own Junior Ranger Patch.

Remember though being a Junior Ranger means more than just completing this booklet. Being a Junior Ranger is a way of life. It is a life that believes in living lightly on the land. It is learning about our natural resources such as plants, birds, wildlife, and water. A Junior Ranger helps to take care of our natural world.

Getting Started

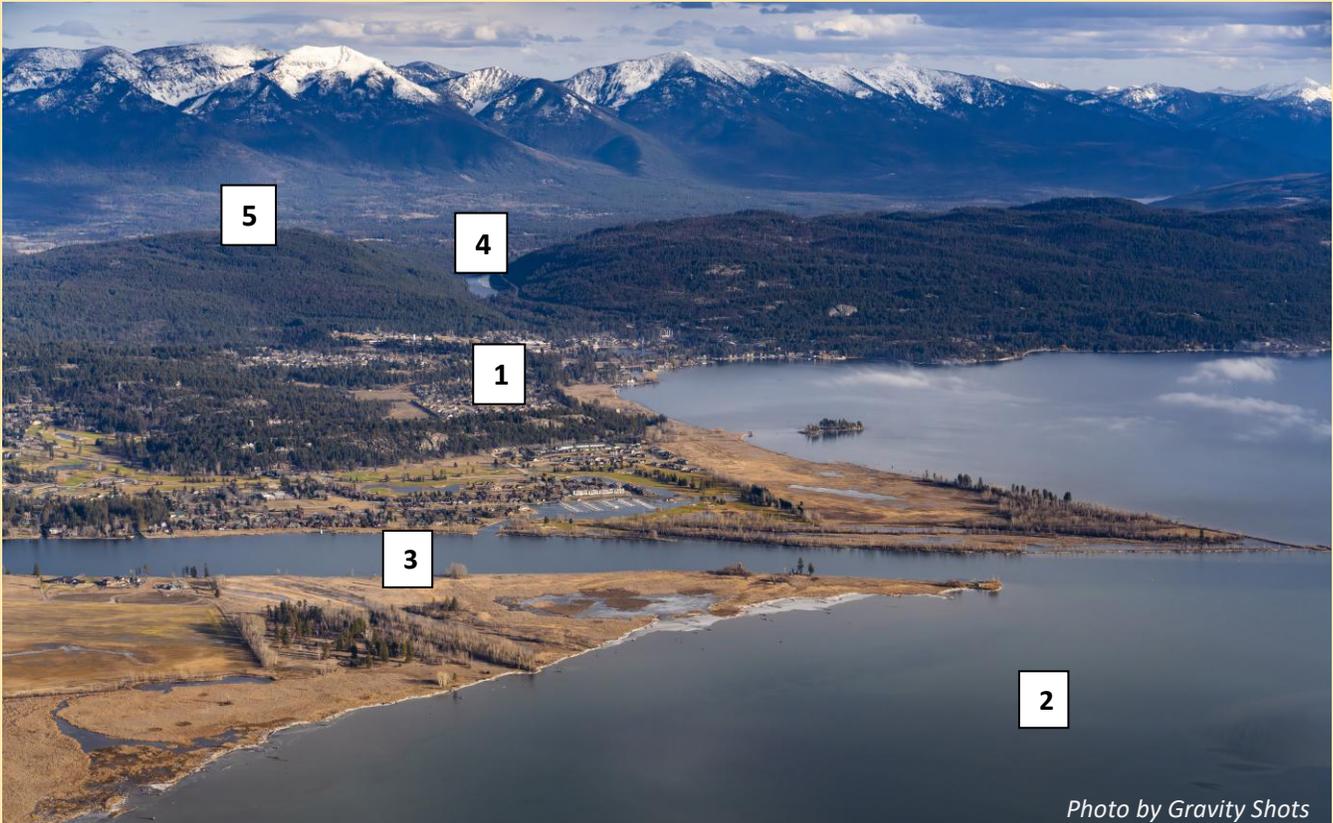
Complete one or more of the following (each counts as an activity toward becoming a Junior Ranger):

_____ Participate in an Event with Flathead Land Trust at Harrell Forest

_____ Hike to the Bench with View of Flathead Lake (age 7 and under)

_____ Hike to the Bench with the View of Swan Lake (age 8+)

Where is Harrell Forest Located?



Name the Feature Located at Each Numbered Site Pictured Above
(use the features listed below to help fill in the blanks)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Harrell Forest Bigfork Swan River Flathead River Flathead Lake

If you were an animal why might you go to Harrell Forest? Where would you be traveling to and from? _____

What is Flathead Land Trust?

Flathead Land Trust is a nonprofit organization working to conserve special places in Northwest Montana that make the area such an incredible place to live. We help protect our excellent water quality, abundant birds and wildlife, rich farmland, and outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities.

Flathead Land Trust owns the 238 acres that make up the Harrell Forest and constructed the trails on the property so that people can enjoy scenic, natural open space near Bigfork. We have also helped create, add to, or protect:



Somers Beach State Park



Pine Grove Pond Family Fishing Area



**West Valley & Reed's Slough
Bird Viewing Areas**



Herron Park



Owen Sowerwine



Lone Pine State Park



Bad Rock Canyon Wildlife Management Area



Smith Lake Waterfowl Production Area

Circle the photos of other things Flathead Land Trust has helped protect.





Match the Animal You Could See at Harrell Forest with Its Tracks



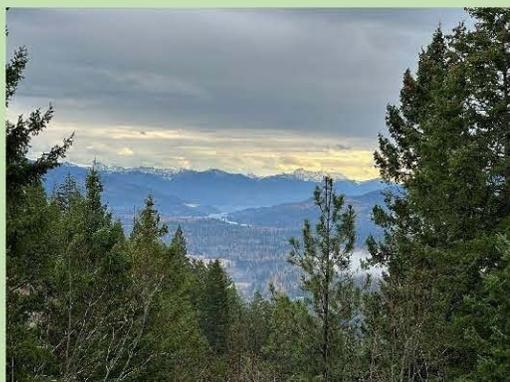
Note: Claws of a cats/felines not visible in tracks



Note: Claws of a dogs/canines visible in tracks



Connect the Dots of the Harrell Forest Trails



View of Swan Lake



View of Swan River



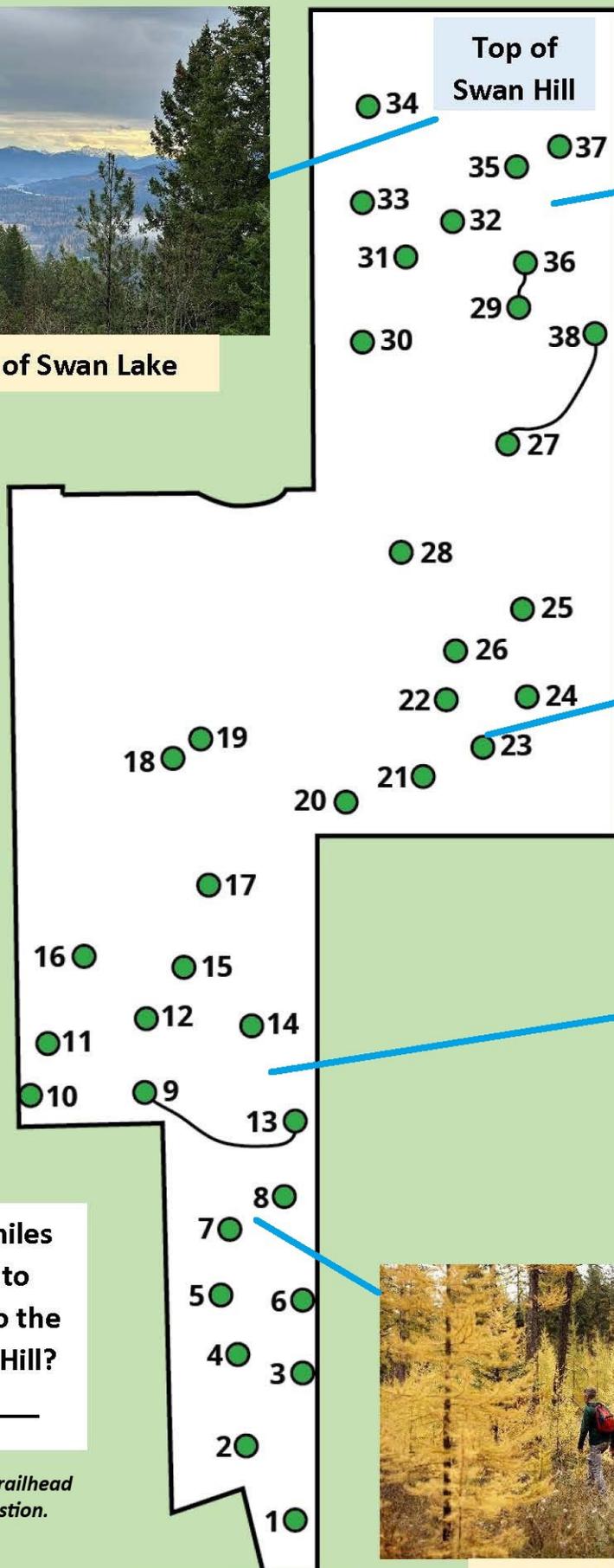
View of Flathead Lake



Birch Loop



Swan Hill Trail



How many miles do you have to hike to get to the top of Swan Hill?

Hint: Use map at trailhead to answer this question.

Parking Area

Top of Swan Hill

Harrell Forest Bingo

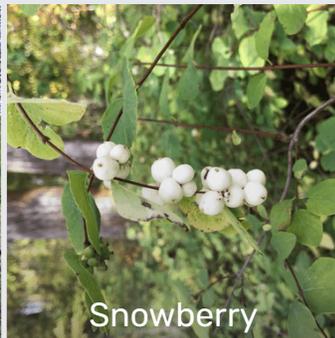
Use your detective skills to look for, but not collect, the items pictured below. Each square is something interesting found at Harrell Forest. If you cross off four in a row, you have a BINGO!



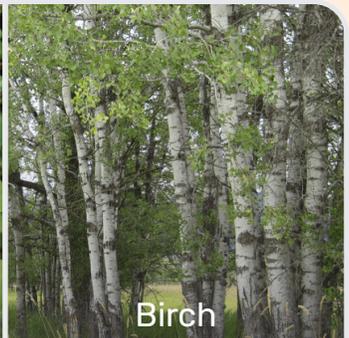
Birch Loop sign



Large rock



Snowberry



Birch



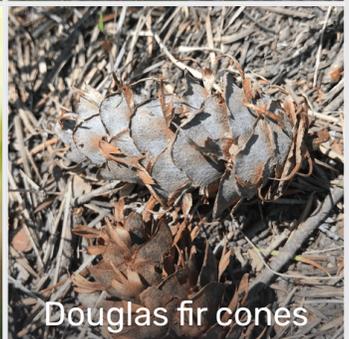
Bench overlooking Flathead Lake



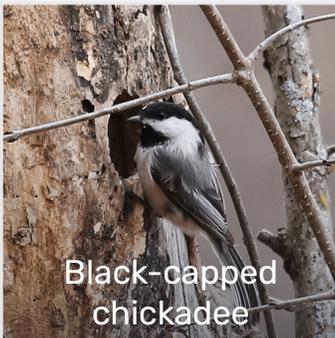
Dog on leash



Ant



Douglas fir cones



Black-capped chickadee



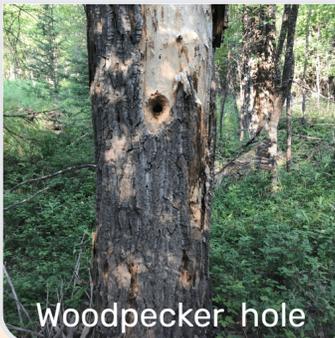
Oregon Grape



Red Squirrel



Ponderosa pine bark



Woodpecker hole



Western larch



Ponderosa pine needles



White-tailed deer

HINTS

Douglas Fir Cone – notice the unique, three-pointed, trident-shaped bracts sticking out from under each scale. They are the only cone found at Harrell Forest with these unique features.



Ponderosa Pine Bark - thick, fire-resistant, and furrowed that on mature trees is a bright reddish-brown color. There is a Ponderosa pine visible from the bench overlooking Flathead Lake.

Ponderosa Pine Needles – long (about as long or longer than your hand), stiff, and typically grow in bundles of three.



Western Larch – trees with soft, short needles that turn yellow in fall and that lose their needles in winter.

How Glaciers have Shaped Harrell Forest

During the last Ice Age, ice sheets thousands of feet deep periodically covered much of Canada and northern Montana. All but the highest peaks of the mountains were covered by ice.

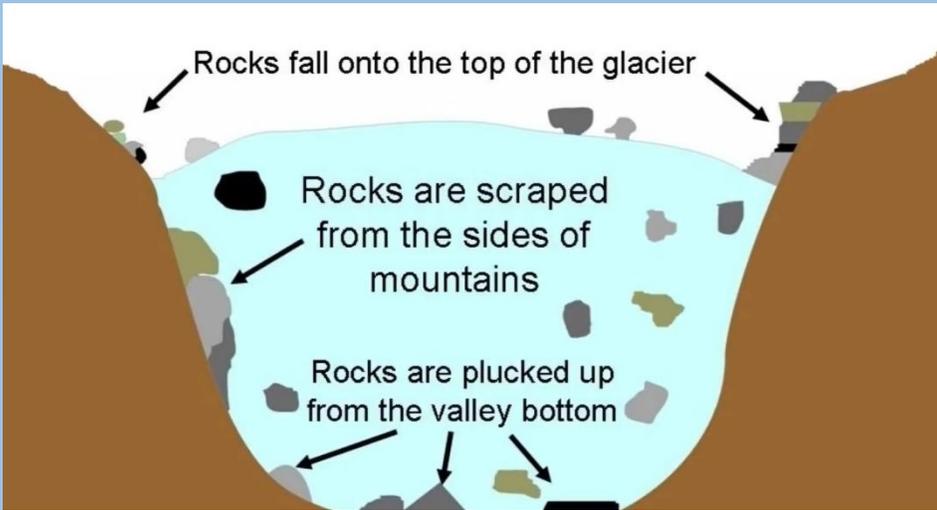
As the Flathead Ice Lobe flowed south it joined the Swan Glacier near the location where the present day Swan and Flathead Rivers flow into Flathead Lake.

The two ice masses converged and flowed south to the site of Polson. When the glaciers retreated for the last time almost 12,000 years ago, the entire Flathead Valley floor including present day Flathead Lake and Whitefish Lake would have been one large lake.

Harrell Forest although now on a hill was once under this ice. Its rounded shape is evidence ice once covered it. Other evidence that it was ice-covered are the large boulders left behind called "erratics". These rocks were transported and deposited by glaciers. When you hike the trails in the Harrell Forest see if you can find a glacial "erratic".



Images above & right from Bigfork Art & Cultural Center-History Archive



Process of how glacial "erratics" were transported to the Harrell Forest (left) and example of glacial "erratic" at Harrell Forest (right).

See if you can connect the path of a large rock in Canada to Harrell Forest during glacial times below.

A large square maze with a white background and black lines. On the left side, there is a white rectangular box containing the text "Boulder in Canada". On the right side, there is a white rectangular box containing the text "Harrell Forest Erratic". The maze is designed for a path to be traced from the left box to the right box.

Birds and Wildlife Need “Snags”

Birds and wildlife need “snags” or standing dead and dying trees for food, shelter, nesting, and survival. Woodpeckers eat insects in “snags” and create holes or cavities in “snags” to nest. Amazingly, cavities in “snags” are used for nesting by 85 species of birds in North America. Cavities in “snags” also provide shelter for birds and wildlife. For example, black-capped chickadees use cavities in “snags” to stay warm at night in winter and flying squirrels raise their young in cavities in “snags”. Some “snags” remain standing and providing important habitat for more than a 100 years.

Find the birds and wildlife that use “snags” pictured on the next page in the word find puzzle below.

E Z T D B I O Q Z F N M Z M E H Q W J T
R I B V F C W Y H I L S K Z S D R C S A
N Z H U L Y L J S Y A V S E D N N K P S
U G Q Q I N F L Q D P S W V S K K E B L
M R R Z C B V L P K H I W Y O T G U E G
W E B S K H B G Y I F N Q H Z K R S R P
M U C R E Y N F G I P B G H E A G E X L
Z C Z D R I M K B Q N I T Z A X O P L Q
H P M E B L W C P Z V G N F R N P S J J
M C A X P B K L S R P R S E I S P F F P
Q B E J Y G B H G T U W Y Q M U G B H J
A Q D S R X A L C N S G O Q U A L D Y O
Y V P C A V P H B F S J G O I I R A K U
J B R O W N C R E E P E R R D X R T P H
H Z T N J T P N Q X R R Y M B D I R E F
S P B E E T L E L A R V A E A O U K E N
R J U X R N N R L C U G M W T K R C H L
Q R K N C R D Q D L Q F D M K P F Z K D
A Z P I L E A T E D W O O D P E C K E R
N J N S N U V J C H I C K A D E E B K M



Owl



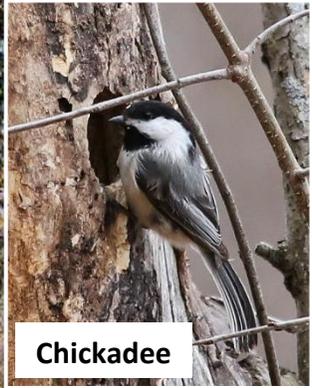
Pine Marten



Flying Squirrel



Wood Duck



Chickadee



Bat



Beetle Larvae



Flicker



Pileated Woodpecker



Kestrel



Brown Creeper

Red Crossbill



Birds You May See at Harrell Forest

Use the clues and birds pictured to fill in the crossword puzzle.



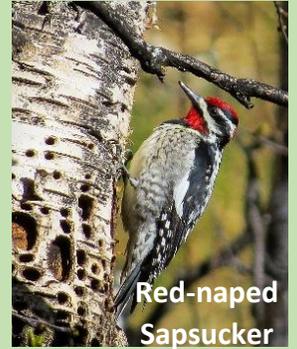
Turkey



Flicker



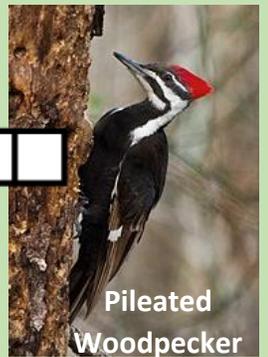
Raven



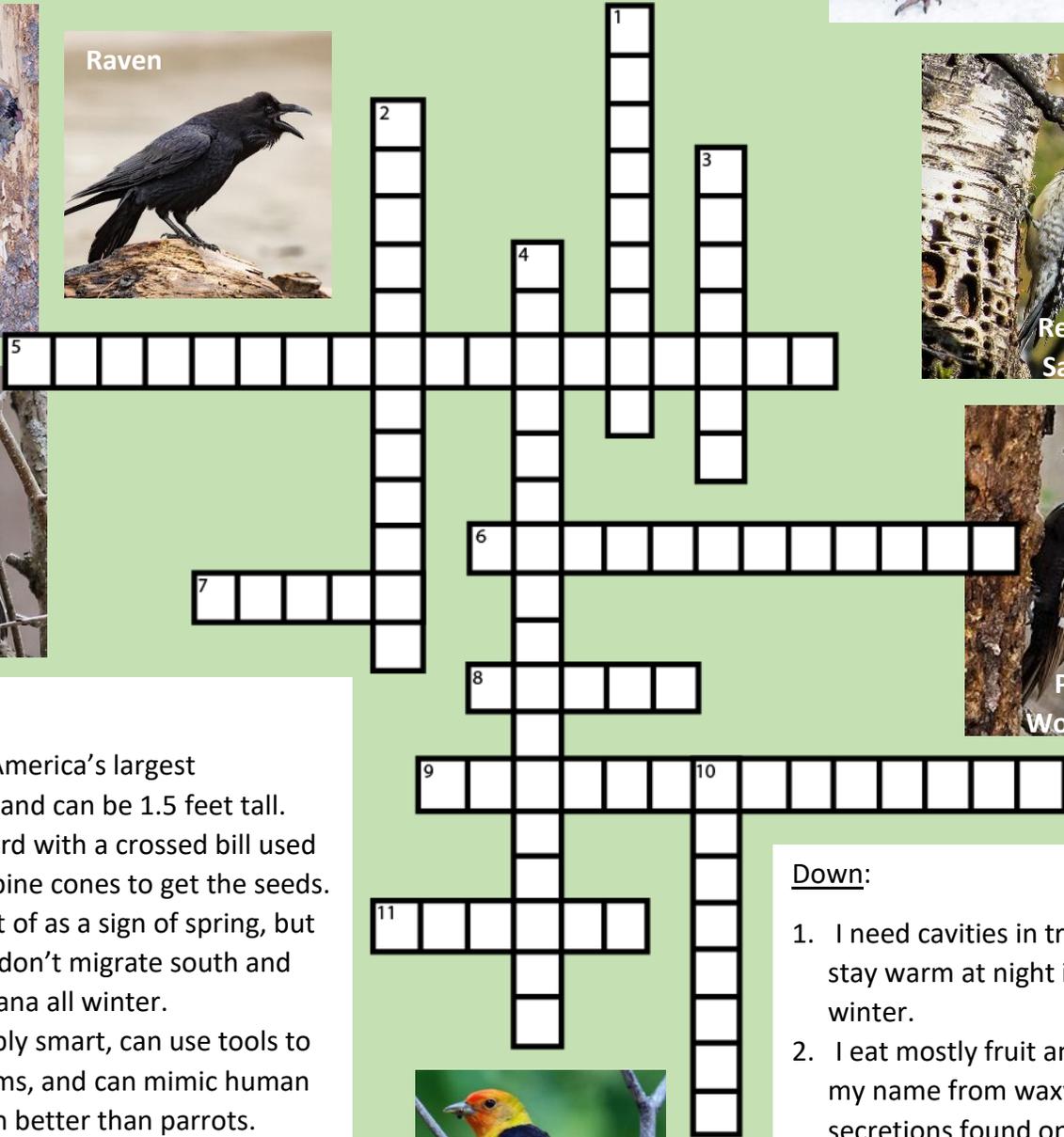
Red-naped Sapsucker



Chickadee



Pileated Woodpecker



Across:

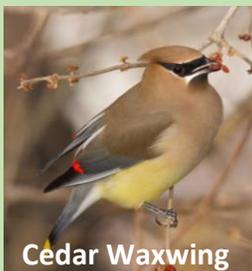
- 5. I am North America's largest woodpecker and can be 1.5 feet tall.
- 6. I am a red bird with a crossed bill used to pry open pine cones to get the seeds.
- 7. I am thought of as a sign of spring, but sometimes I don't migrate south and stay in Montana all winter.
- 8. I am incredibly smart, can use tools to solve problems, and can mimic human speech, often better than parrots.
- 9. I am colorful with yellow, orange and red feathers and am thought to get the red in my feathers from insects I eat.
- 11. My head does not have feathers and changes colors depending on how I feel.

Down:

- 1. I need cavities in trees to stay warm at night in winter.
- 2. I eat mostly fruit and get my name from waxy red secretions found on the tips of my wings.
- 3. I am a woodpecker, but you see me on the ground a lot foraging for ants.
- 4. I drill neat rows of holes in aspen and birch and eat sugary sap from the holes.
- 10. I travel down trees headfirst finding insects that other birds climbing upwards might miss.



Western Tanager



Cedar Waxwing



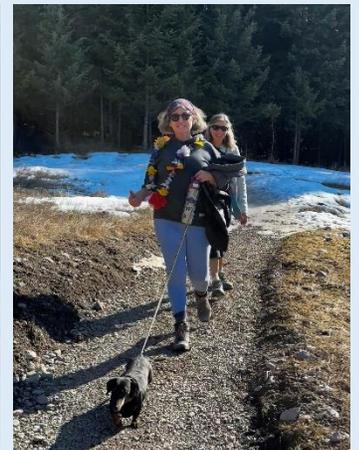
Nuthatch



Robin

Harrell Forest Rules: True or False

1. Bikes are allowed on the trails _____
2. You can walk your dog off leash _____
3. Camping is not allowed _____
4. You must clean up after your dogs _____
5. Campfires are o.k. as long as it is not hot and dry _____
6. You can walk on the roads as well as the trails _____
7. Neighbors don't mind if you walk on their land _____
8. It's o.k. to cut the trail switchbacks to get back to the parking area _____
9. You should bring bear spray while hiking _____
10. You can cut your Christmas tree here _____
11. Hunting is permitted if using archery _____
12. Horseback riding on the trails is allowed _____
13. E-bikes are not allowed _____
14. Firewood cutting is o.k. if the tree is dead _____
15. Fireworks are allowed if in the parking area _____





Harrell Forest

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**FLATHEAD
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Conserving Our Legacy of Land and Water

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